

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 07020 020417Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-05 MMO-01 CA-01 ABF-01 /019 W
-----100465 022109Z /62

R 300826Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9789

UNCLAS KABUL 7020

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: APER, ECSP, CGEN, AF
SUBJ: STAFFING IN CONSULAR OFFICE

REF: A) KABUL 0243, B) STATE 214573

1. SUMMARY: DEPT MAY HAVE BEEN UNAWARE THAT CONSULAR SECTION HERE HAS USUALLY BEEN OPERATING WITH JUST 1 1/2 FSO'S. EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT DEPT HELP ARRANGE FOR OVERLAP DURING CHANGEOVER OF CONSULAR CHIEF POSITION IN JANUARY: I.E., BLOCH'S TOUR ENDS JANUARY 10 WHILE MALINOWSKI WILL ARRIVE SOMETIME THAT MONTH. SINCE THE SECTION IS SWAMPED WITH WORK, WE VERY MUCH WISH TO AVOID ANY GAP. WE ALSO HOPE DEPT WILL ARRANGE THAT REPLACEMENT FOR VICE CONSUL ADAMS CAN ARRIVE IN JUNE -- BEFORE ADAMS LEAVES ON JULY 1. END SUMMARY

2. POST RECENTLY REALIZED THAT DEPT IS NOT FULLY AWARE OF EMBASSY'S STAFFING SITUATION IN CONSULAR OFFICE HERE. WE HAVE 3 POSITIONS, OF WHICH ONE HAS BEEN VACANT SINCE JUNE 1977. DAVID BLOCH IS CHIEF OF OFFICE AND HAS WORKED THERE FULL-TIME.

3. MARTIN ADAMS HAS BEEN, ON PAPER, THE SECOND FULL-TIME OFFICER. HOWEVER, IN ACTUALITY, ADAMS HAS BEEN SPENDING ABOUT 8 HOURS A WEEK ON PROTOCOL WORK SINCE MARCH 1977 AND HAS SERVED HALF-DAY ROTATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS IN ADMIN AND POLITICAL SECTIONS SINCE OCTOBER 1977, AS PART OF HIS DEPT-ENCOURAGED BROADENING TRAINING. THIS HAS LEFT THE OFFICE BADLY UNDERSTAFFED AT TIMES,
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NECESSITATING MANY HOURS OF OVERTIME WORK BY BOTH BLOCH AND ADAMS. BECAUSE OF WORKLOAD, ADAMS IS NOW BACK FULLTIME IN THE CONSULAR SECTION.

4. SINCE THE COUP IN APRIL, THE CONSULAR WORKLOAD HAS INCREASED CONSIDERABLY. PRISONER CASES, LOST AND STOLEN PASSPORT CASES, REQUESTS FOR EXIT PERMITS FOR AMCITS, ETC., ALL TAKE MORE TIME

BECAUSE OF NEW GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS AND NEW OFFICIALS IMPLEMENTING THEM. THE NUMBER OF IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICANTS HAS INCREASED TOO. WE EXPECT THIS INCREASED LEVEL OF WORK TO CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME.

5. POST APPRECIATES TIMELY ASSIGNMENT MALINOWSKI VICE BLOCH. SINCE BLOCH IS ELIGIBLE TO LEAVE JAN. 10, WE WILL SEND SEPTTEL TO MALINOWSKI ASKING HIM TO ARRIVE ON OR BEFORE THAT DATE, TO PREVENT ANY MORE SERIOUS UNDERSTAFFING. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S HELP IN AIDING HIS EARLY ARRIVAL.

6. EQUALLY IMPORTANT, POST ALSO HOPES THAT REPLACEMENT FOR MARTIN ADAMS CAN ARRIVE IN JUNE 1979, AS ADAMS DUE TO DEPART JULY 1. WHILE ADAMS IS CURRENTLY WORKING FULL-TIME IN CONSULAR OFFICE, HE WILL RESUME HIS ROTATIONAL TRAINING IN THE POLITICAL SECTION IN NOVEMBER WHEN ROTATIONAL OFFICER LOSKOT ARRIVES; IN JAN-FEB HE WILL MOVE TO ECON FOR EXPOSURE THERE. PROMPT ARRIVAL OF ADAMS' REPLACEMENT IS ONLY WAY EMBASSY CAN KEEP TWO ROTATIONAL OFFICERS ON SCHEDULE AND STILL ADEQUATELY COVER THE CONSULAR OFFICE.
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